



March 21, 2002

The Hartley County Harvester

**Hartley County FSA
District 1**
PO Box 177
Hartley, TX 79044-0177

Voice: (806) 365-4453
FAX: (806) 365-4446

Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee:
Marvin Batenhorst
Joe Parker
Bud Snead

Minority Advisor:
Babette Spinhirne

Staff:
Glen Clugy, CED
Becky Brown, PT
Becky Voight, PT
Teresa Gates, PT

Regular Committee Meetings
held on the 3rd Wednesday of
each Month.

Dates to Remember

**March 29 -- Final Date to
Request 2002 EQIP
Cost-Sharing
Assistance**
**April 1 -- Final Date to
Request a 2001 Small
Grain Loan or LDP**
**April 18 -- Final Date to
purchase a 2001 or
2002 NAP Crop Policy**
**April 18 -- Final Date to
Report 2001 NAP Crop
Production**
**May 31 -- Final Date to
request a 2001 Feed
Grain Loan or LDP**
**June 1 -- Final Date to
request a 2002 Farm
Reconstitution**

NAP Application Deadline

The Federal Register for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Program (NAP) was published on March 19, 2002. With the publishing of this Register and even though the sales closing dates for all NAP crops in Hartley County has passed, all producers will have until April 18, 2002 to purchase NAP coverage for their eligible 2001 and 2002 crops. Furthermore; producers who purchased a 2001 policy for one or more of their crops will have through the April 18 deadline to pay the administrative fee for the crop so that the crop is covered for 2002.

Under the NAP program, producers can obtain NAP insurance coverage on the crops for which FCIC coverage is unavailable in the County and includes forage crops such as native and improved grass pastures, grazed or hayed small grain acreage, alfalfa, and haygrazers, etc.

NAP coverage is available after paying a \$100 administrative fee per crop (\$300 maximum fee per county and \$900 maximum fee per producer) and will provide benefits for losses above 50% of the expected production for the crop. However; NAP coverage is not available for crops which have not been successfully produced in the County during three years of the previous ten years or if the administrative fee is not paid by the April 18, 2002 deadline. For a complete listing of crops for which NAP coverage is available, please contact our office.

Reporting Crop Losses

All producers are reminded that they should report any damage discovered in their insurable and noninsurable crops to this office within 15-days of discovering the damage. Failure to timely report the crop damage can result in a loss or reduction of FSA crop disaster benefits.

Crop Insurance Linkage

Producers who received a disaster payment under the 2000 Crop Disaster Program or the 2000 Quality Loss Program are reminded of the need to purchase crop insurance. As a condition of the disaster programs, 2002 FCIC insurance is required to be obtained for any insurable crop that received benefits. Failure to purchase insurance will result in program penalties. Contact this office for a list of insurance agents if you need help in purchasing your coverage.

EQIP Funds Available

March 29th is the final date to submit a request for the 2002 Environmental Quality Incentive Program. EQIP is designed to address all the conservation concerns on your operation under one contract, and if you have some conservation measures you wish to perform on your farm or ranch, please contact this office or NRCS before the deadline.

Under the program, NRCS designs the plan and you determine when you can install the practices (EQIP contracts may be implemented over a 10-year period). When you complete a component, FSA can cost-share up to 75% of the installation cost.

However, if you start the installation of a practice before receiving written approval of your application, your application may be ineligible for cost-sharing assistance.

2001 NAP Crop Production

Producers who purchased a NAP policy for one or more of their 2001 crops will have until April 18, 2002 to provide this office with their 2001 production records for the crop. Failure to timely report this production will affect your eligibility for 2001 and 2002 NAP benefits.

Loan/LDP Deadline Approaching

April 1, 2002 is the deadline for requesting a commodity loan or LDP for 2001 small grains production. The deadline to request a feed grains crop loan or LDP is May 31, 2002.

Farm Update Reminder

Have you sold a portion of your farm or ranch or have you made changes to your farming operation? In some cases this may require a farm reconstitution. It is important to update your farm records before you request FSA benefits. Contact this office with any changes so we can update our records and prevent any delays in payments. The last day to request a farm reconstitution is June 1.

Power of Attorneys for Entities

With a new clarification of FSA provisions regarding the signature requirements for entities such as corporation, limited partnerships, etc., officers of the entity can only grant another individual the power to sign for the entity if the entity's organizational papers give the officers this authority.

On the World Wide Web:
USDA Washington Office
www.usda.gov
FSA Washington Office
www.fsa.usda.gov
Texas State FSA Office
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx
Hartley FSA
www.fsa.usda.gov/tx/tx205



<i>Spousal Signatures</i>	All producers are reminded that their spouse can sign FSA forms on the behalf of their spouse unless you file a written notification with this office prohibiting such authority. Furthermore; this authority only applies when the individual producer's signature is needed and does not extend to signing on the behalf of an entity or joint operation.
<i>Conservation Compliance</i>	Highly Erodible Land (HEL) compliance is still required to earn program benefits. This includes payments under the farm loan program, crop insurance, 7-year PFC contract, CRP, LDP among others. Farmers with HEL soils need to be aware of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements detailed in the conservation compliance plan you developed with NRCS. If you have any questions about the plan, contact NRCS about this year’s requirements.
<i>Operating Loans</i>	Producers applying for a direct or guaranteed operating loan need to begin the process now. The process starts by gathering last year's production records and schedule an appointment with a loan officer to determine your borrowing needs. Operating loans can be used to finance livestock, crops, machinery, and refinance chattel debts. The maximum loan amount is \$200,000. Remember that funds are issued on a first come-first serve basis.
<i>Did You Know?</i>	The number of U.S. farms decreased less than 1 percent in 2001 to 2.16 million. Total land in farms was 941 million acres, down less than 1%. The average farm size increased to 436 acres. The number of farms in the economic sales class between \$1,000 and \$9,999 decreased to 1.17 million while farms with sales between \$10,000 and \$99,999 increased to 642,010. Farms with over \$100,000 in sales remained at 349,1180. (source: NASS data)

If you have any questions about this newsletter or any FSA program, please come by this office or call us at (806) 365-4453 extension 2.